

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 OPR-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /048 W

----- 120300

O R 120719Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0552

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

S E C R E T MANILA 1886

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, AEMB, CB, RP

SUBJECT: EVACUATION OF FILIPINOS FROM PHNOM PENH

REF: A. MANILA 1823

B. PHNOM PENH 2632

1. APPRECIATE RAPID AND INFORMATIVE RESPONSE TO REF A.

HOWEVER, I WOULD

LIKE SOME CLARIFICATION OF FIGURES INVOLVED.

2. REF B STATES THAT THERE ARE SOME 170 MEMBERS OF

FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN PHNOM PENH. IT ALSO STATES

THAT THERE ARE 25 OFFICIAL STAFF AND DEPENDENTS. FURTHER

MENTION IS MADE OF FILIPINO TCN'S WHO ARE EMPLOYED BY

AMERICAN COMPANIES OR USG, AND WHO ARE INCLUDED IN U.S.

COMMITMENT TO EVACUATE.

3. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER 170 FIGURE INCLUDES 25 OFFICIAL

FILIPINOS, AND WHETHER IT ALSO INCLUDES FILIPINO

TCN'S WHO ARE USG RESPONSIBILITY.

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4. PLEASE PROVIDE SOONEST BREAKDOWN OF FIGURES SO THAT

MELCHOR CAN CALCULATE HOW MANY MEMBERS OF FILIPINO COMMUNITY ARE USG RESPONSIBILITY, AND HOW MANY ARE NON-OFFICIAL FOR WHOM NO RPT NO EVACUATION PLANS SEEM EXTANT.

5. ALSO PLEASE PROVIDE, IN EVENT I AM ASKED, RATIONALE WHICH EXCLUDES PHILIPPINES FROM NATIONALS WHO ARE INCLUDED IN U.S. EVACUATION PLANS WHILE JAPANESE AND OTHERS ARE INCLUDED. MELCHOR HAS EXPRESSED GRAVE DOUBTS ABOUT WISDOM OF SENDING PHILIPPINE C-130, PILOTED BY CREW UNFAMILIAR WITH AIRPORT AND ITS APPROACHES, INTO SITUATION WHICH WOULD BE EXTREMELY HAZARDOUS TO ANY AIRCRAFT.

6. THIS LEADS ME TO ASK FOR MORE PRECISE EVALUATION BOTH OF THE CURRENT EVACUATION PROSPECTS AND OF FILIPINO ROLE IN KHMER DEFENSE SITUATION. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, MOST FILIPINOS PRESENT ARE DANCE BAND MUSICIANS, I WOULD COUNSEL MELCHOR TO HAVE VIRAY ORDER THEM OUT AT THIS STAGE, ASSUMING THEY WILL BECOME A CLOG IN THE SYSTEM IN A FEW DAYS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY ARE PRIMARILY AIRCRAFT MECHANICS OR RIVER BOAT PILOTS, I WOULD ASSUME YOU WILL WANT THEM THERE UNTIL LAST MINUTE. IN THAT EVENT, HOWEVER, IT WOULD SEEM USG BE PREPARED ASSURE THEIR EVACUATION.

7. I HAVE PUT THESE SAME QUESTIONS TO MELCHOR TO ASK VIRAY, BUT HAVE MORE LIMITED FAITH IN BOTH PHILIPPINE COMMUNICATIONS AND ACCURACY VIRAY'S RESPONSE THAN I WOULD HAVE IN YOURS.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EVACUATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA01886
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750050-0698
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750250/aaaabtae.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 1823
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION OF FILIPINOS FROM PHNOM PENH
TAGS: PINS, AEMR, CB, RP
To: PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006